

OPINION 1708

Proagoderus Lansberge, 1883 (Insecta, Coleoptera): conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Onthotrogus* Motschulsky, 1859 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Proagoderus* Lansberge, 1883 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Onthophagus (Proagoderus) ritsemae* Lansberge, 1883, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *ritsemae* Lansberge, 1883, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus (Proagoderus) ritsemae* (specific name of the type species of *Proagoderus* Lansberge, 1883), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Onthotrogus* Motschulsky, 1859, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2756

An application for the conservation of the name *Proagoderus* Lansberge, 1883 was received from Dr Claudia Palestini (*Università di Torino, Torino, Italy*) on 1 February 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 48: 217–218 (September 1991). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

It was noted on the voting paper that included in the 63 references held by the Commission Secretariat demonstrating usage of the name *Proagoderus* between 1883 and 1988 (para. 4 of the application) were 18 published in the last 50 years.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 217–218. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1992 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 23: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Holthuis, Kraus, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 5: Bouchet, Kabata, Lehtinen, Macpherson and Trjapitzin.

No vote was received from Heppell.

Voting for, Ride commented: 'While it is true that "the Code does not authorize the automatic rejection of *nomina oblita*" (para. 5 of the application) the purpose of the Principle of Priority is explicitly stated in Article 23b of the Code. In this case the Commission must accept *prima facie* that stability is threatened'. Voting against, Kabata commented: 'I very much doubt if the revival of the unused senior subjective synonym (*Onthotrogus* Motschulsky, 1859) would result in nomenclatural instability. Consequently I vote with those following priority'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Onthotrogus Motschulsky, 1859, *Études Entomologiques*, **8**: 153.

Proagoderus Lansberge, 1883, *Notes from the Leyden Museum*, **5**: 15.

ritsemae, *Onthophagus* (*Proagoderus*), Lansberge, 1883, *Notes from the Leyden Museum*, **5**: 15.